Appl. No. 10/597,485

Amendment Dated April 2, 2012

Reply to Office action of March 2, 2012

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Withdrawn) A replaceable component (8) for a liquid-bearing domestic appliance, which comprises at least one antibiotic agent inside or on its surface and which can be fixed replaceably inside a rinsing tub, sump, outlet, outlet tube and/or insert of the liquid-bearing domestic appliance.

2. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claims 1, which can be fixed replaceably inside an insert of the liquid-bearing domestic appliance, which is a spraying arm, a sieve system or a filter.

- 3. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claim 1, which can be fixed replaceably inside the sump, outlet and/or outlet tube.
- 4. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to any of the claims 1, wherein the liquid-bearing domestic appliance is a dishwasher.
- 5. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according claim 1, which can be replaced if the antibiotic agent is used up, is insufficient in amount or if the domestic appliance shall be recycled.
- 6. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according claim 1, which is adapted to be accommodated inside a sump (2) of a dishwasher, in particular below a flat filter (3) covering the sump or below a cylindrical filter arrangement (7) arranged within the sump.

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7. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claim 6, which has the shape of a

ring or of a disk (8), in particular which is provided with fixation means (8.2) for replaceable

fixation to the lower face of the flat filter (3) or preferably to the bottom of the cylindrical filter

arrangement (7).

8. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claim 7, which has the shape of a

disk (8) and is adapted to be accommodated between the bottom of the cylindrical filter

arrangement (7) and the bottom of the sump (3, 4), such that the washing liquid can pass above

or below the disk, preferably above and below the disk.

9. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claim 1, which comprises at least

one enlarged surface area (8.3) for enhanced contact of the antibacterial agent with the washing

liquid, in particular wherein the enlarged surface area comprises at least one structure such as a

rib, a knob, a groove, a cavity and/or a through-hole, in particular, wherein the enlarged surface

area comprises a pattern of a plurality of such (a) structure(s).

10. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claim 9, wherein the enlarged

surface area (8.3) comprises two essentially parallel surfaces of the replaceable component (8)

and at least one hole connecting the essentially parallel surfaces and allowing streaming through

of the washing liquid, preferably wherein the enlarged surface area comprises a mesh-like

structure.

11. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claim 1, wherein the at least one

antibiotic agent is part of a construction material of the replaceable component, in particular of a

resin composition and/or a plastic composition and/or a fabric.

12. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claim 1, wherein the at least one

antibiotic agent is at least part of a surface coating or layer of the sanitary component, in

particular a foil and/or a co-extruded or co-laminated layer and/or a fabric and/or a synthetic

resin and/or a paint and/or a varnish and/or a lacquer.

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13. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claim 1, wherein at least part it, at

least at its surface, is provided with the at least one antibiotic agent.

14. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claim 1, wherein the at least one

antibiotic agent is provided in and/or on and/or near areas (8.3) of the replaceable component

which are located in stagnant liquid.

15. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claim 1, wherein the at least one

antibiotic agent comprises at least one bacteriostatic and/or at least one bacteriocidal and or at

least one fungicidal and/or at least one anti-algal substance.

16. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claim 15, wherein the antibiotic

agent comprises at least one of the elements silver or copper or zinc or mercury or tin or lead or

bismuth or cadmium or chromium or thallium, preferably silver, and/or at least one of the ions

thereof, in particular silver ions and/or copper ions and/or zinc ions, preferably silver ions.

17. (Withdrawn) The replaceable component according to claim 15, wherein the antibiotic

agent comprises a ceramic matrix, in particular a natural and/or synthetic zeolite matrix, bearing

the at least one bacteriostatic and/or at least one bacteriocidal and/or at least one fungicidal

and/or at least one anti-algal substance, preferably wherein the antibiotic agent comprises a

ceramic matrix comprising silver and/or silver ions.

18. (currently amended) A liquid-bearing domestic appliance comprising a dishwasher with a

rinsing tub, the appliance comprising a sieve system (3, 7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3) and/or a filter (3, 7, 7.1,

7.2, 7.3), which is provided with at least one consumable antibiotic agent at or adjacent to at least

one surface of the sieve system and/or filter,

wherein the consumable antibiotic agent is provided inside an area of the liquid-bearing

domestic appliance exposed to a rinsing liquid and which contains stagnant water after drainage,

including inside a sump (3), an outlet (4) and/or an outlet tube (6),

the appliance further comprising a replaceable component (8) with <u>at least one support</u> <u>arm that supports</u> an enlarged surface area <del>and which comprises</del> <u>that is engaged with</u> said at least one consumable antibiotic agent inside or on said enlarged surface area, and

wherein the replaceable component (8) is arranged inside an area of the liquid-bearing domestic appliance so that both of the enlarged surface area and the consumable antibiotic agent are directly exposed to a rinsing liquid and stagnant water after drainage, including inside a sump (3), an outlet (4) and/or an outlet tube (6), and

wherein the replaceable component (8) can be is fixed replaceably via said at least one support arm inside the sump, outlet, and/or outlet tube of the liquid-bearing domestic appliance such that the replaceable component (8) is configured to be periodically replaced as said at least one consumable antibiotic agent is consumed over time from said enlarged surface area via exposure to the rinsing liquid and/or stagnant water.

## 19. (cancelled)

20. (previously presented) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 18, wherein the at least one antibiotic agent comprises at least part of a surface of the sieve system or filter (3, 7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3), wherein the antibiotic agent is a foil and/or a co-extruded or co-laminated layer and/or a fabric and/or a synthetic resin and/or a paint and/or a varnish and/or a lacquer.

## 21. (cancelled)

- 22. (previously presented) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 18, wherein the at least one anti-biotic agent comprises at least one bacteriostatic and/or at least one bacteriocidal and/or at least one fungicidal and/or at least one anti-algal substance.
- 23. (previously presented) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 22, wherein the antibiotic agent comprises at least one of the elements silver or copper or zinc or mercury or tin or lead or bismuth or cadmium or chromium or thallium, and/or at least one of the ions thereof.

24. (previously presented) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 22, wherein the antibiotic agent comprises a ceramic matrix, a natural zeolite matrix and/or synthetic zeolite matrix, bearing the at least one bacteriostatic and/or at least one bacteriocidal and/or at least one fungicidal and/or at least one anti-algal substance, wherein the antibiotic agent comprises a ceramic matrix comprising silver and/or silver ions.

25. (previously presented) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 18, wherein the sieve system (3, 7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3) and/or a filter (3, 7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3) is located below the rinsing tub.

26. (previously presented) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 18, wherein the replaceable component (8) is fixed replaceably by at least one fixation means that is releasably inserted into a corresponding fixation opening of the sieve system (3, 7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3) and/or filter (3, 7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3).

27. (currently amended) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 26, wherein the replaceable component (8) comprises at least one support arm earrying carries the fixation means.

28. (currently amended) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 26 27, wherein said at least one arm carries the fixation means at an end of said at least one arm.

29. (currently amended) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 26 27, wherein said at least one arm carries the fixation means at a location spaced apart from an end of said at least one arm.

30. (currently amended) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 26, wherein the replaceable component (8) comprises a plurality of <u>support</u> arms each carrying fixation means.

31. (previously presented) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 18, wherein the replaceable component (8) carrying the at least one antibiotic agent is provided inside an area

of the liquid-bearing domestic appliance that is spaced apart from the rinsing tub.

32. (previously presented) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 18, wherein

the replaceable component (8) has the shape of a disk and is adapted to be accommodated

between a bottom of the filter and a bottom of the sump, such that washing liquid can pass above

and below the replaceable component (8).

33. (previously presented) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 18,

wherein the replaceable component (8) can be replaced when said at least one consumable

antibiotic agent is reduced to an amount that is insufficient to inhibit bacterial growth in the

sump, outlet, and/or outlet tube of the liquid-bearing domestic appliance.

34. (previously presented) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 18,

wherein said replaceable component (8) comprises said at least one consumable antibiotic agent

as a layer on said enlarged surface area.

35. (new) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 18, wherein said replaceable

component (8) is suspended below said sieve system (3, 7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3) and/or a filter (3, 7, 7.1,

7.2, 7.3) by said at least one support arm.

36. (new) The liquid-bearing domestic appliance according to claim 18, wherein said at least one

support arm comprises a projection that removably interengages with said sieve system (3, 7, 7.1,

7.2, 7.3) and/or a filter (3, 7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3) so that the replaceable component (8) is fixed

replaceably inside the sump, outlet, and/or outlet tube of the liquid-bearing domestic appliance.